



Hearing Notice

Proposed Ecology Regulation on Low Emission Vehicles (Clean Car Standards)

from Ecology's Air Quality Program

Public Hearing Schedule:

**Wednesday,
November 9
7:00 p.m.
Eastern
Regional Office,
Department of
Ecology
2nd Floor
Conference Rm.
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA**

**Monday,
November 14
7:00 p.m.
Northwest
Region Office,
Department of
Ecology
Rooms 1A & B
Bellevue, WA**

**Tuesday,
November 15
7:00 p.m.
Southwest
Clean Air
Agency
11815 NE 99th
St., Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA**

What are the public hearings for?

The federal Clean Air Act allows states to choose whether they will use federal standards or clean car standards. The 2005 Washington State Legislature passed legislation adopting clean car standards, and the Governor signed the bill into law on May 6, 2005. Washington's law states that Washington will only require clean car standards if Oregon adopts them as well. If Oregon does adopt the standards, clean cars will be required in Washington beginning with the 2009 model year.

The Department of Ecology is proposing regulations to implement this law, and is holding hearings to receive public comment.

What are clean car standards?

There are two types of auto emission standards: federal standards and the stricter "clean car" standards. Clean car standards require better pollution controls on vehicles, which means that cars meeting these standards emit less pollution.

Why was this law needed?

In Washington, motor vehicles produce more than half of the emissions of air pollutants that cause cancer, asthma, and other health problems. More than 50 percent of Washington's residents suffer from at least one medical condition that is aggravated by air pollution. In addition to the health effects, these air pollutants also damage our economy. The annual cost to Washington's economy from air pollution-related death and illness is at least \$500 million.

Motor vehicles also produce more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Greenhouse gases cause global warming. Effects of global warming in Washington include reduced snow pack, low summer stream flows, more winter flooding, increased coastal erosion, reduced water supplies for people and agriculture, and further loss of salmon habitat.

How can I get more information about the proposed regulation?

Copies of the draft rule and supporting material are available on the Department of Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/NewCarStuff/NewCarInformation.htm>, and at the following locations:

The Seattle Public Library
1000 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1109

Spokane Public Library
906 West Main
Spokane, WA 99201

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Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190-160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Fort Vancouver Regional Library
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663

Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th St., Suite 1294
Vancouver, WA 98682-2454

How can I comment on the proposed regulations?

You can comment by giving testimony at any of the public hearings (see the schedule on page 1). You can also comment by submitting written comments by November 18, 2005 to:

Brett Rude
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504
E-mail: brud461@ecy.wa.gov
FAX: (360)407-7534

Questions?

Contact:

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If you have special accommodation needs or need this document in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6800. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 800-833-6388 for TTY.